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Nota di contenuto	German melody -- Melodielehre? -- Wagner in the melodic workshop -- Excursus : Bellini's Sinnlichkeit, Wagner's Italy -- Hearing voices : Wilhelmine Schroder-Devrient and the Lohengrin recitatives -- Vowels, voices, and "original truth" -- Wagner's material expression.
Sommario/riassunto	Since the 1840s, critics have lambasted Wagner for lacking the ability to compose melody. But for him, melody was fundamental - 'music's only form'. This incongruity testifies to the surprising difficulties during the nineteenth century of conceptualizing melody. Despite its indispensable place in opera, contemporary theorists were unable even to agree on a definition for it. In Wagner's Melodies, David Trippett re-examines Wagner's central aesthetic claims, placing the composer's ideas about melody in the context of the scientific discourse of his age: from the emergence of the natural sciences and historical linguistics to sources about music's stimulation of the body and inventions for

'automatic' composition. Interweaving a rich variety of material from the history of science, music theory, music criticism, private correspondence and court reports, Trippett uncovers a new and controversial discourse that placed melody at the apex of artistic self-consciousness and generated problems of urgent dimensions for German music aesthetics.

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